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TRA DOCKET ROOM
October 19, 2004

Guy M. Hicks
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VIA HAND DELIVERY

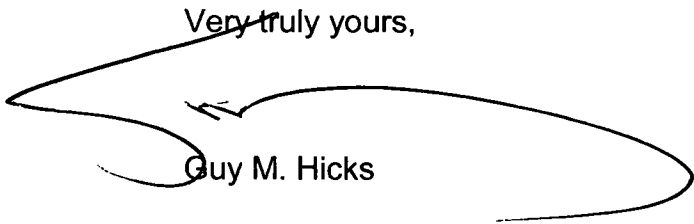
Hon. Pat Miller, Chairman
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Rulemaking for the Purpose of Implementing Toll-Free County-Wide
Calling Rules*
Docket No. 04-00205

Dear Chairman Miller:

In accordance with the recent *Notice of Filing Comments* issued by the Authority, BellSouth is submitting its *Comments* regarding proposed Rule 1220-4-12. For the convenience of the Authority, BellSouth is submitting both a brief summary of these comments, and a version of this Rule with BellSouth's suggested revisions shown in redline. For ease of reference, BellSouth is also enclosing a copy of the *Comments* it filed in Docket No. 03-00502, *Workshop to Gather Information from the Telecommunications Industry Related to Preventing Violations of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114*. These *Comments* provide additional background information regarding the successful implementation and use of the TAR Code Database, which has been used by the vast majority of carriers in Tennessee to implement toll-free county-wide calling in Tennessee.

Very truly yours,


Guy M. Hicks

GMH.ch

553508

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *Rulemaking for the Purpose of Implementing Toll-Free County-Wide Calling Rules*

Docket No. 04-00205

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.'S
COMMENTS ON PROPOSED AUTHORITY RULE 1220-4-12

BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. ("BellSouth") hereby submits the following *Comments* regarding Proposed Rule 1220-4-12.

I. Rule 1220-4-12-.01(4) Definitions

BellSouth proposes that the word "landline" be inserted so the definition of "County-wide or intra-county calls" shall be as follows: "any landline telephone call made between two (2) points in the same county in Tennessee." The insertion of the word "landline" makes clear that wireless calls are not included in the definition. This is consistent with proposed Rules 1220-4-12-.02(1) and 1220-4-12-.02(2), which make clear that this Chapter is not applicable to wireless telephone service,

II. Rule 1220-4-12-.01(11) Definitions

BellSouth proposes that the definition of "TAR" be revised to read as follows:

"TAR" shall mean the statewide Tax Area Rate database that identifies a local service provider's telephone number and the county in which the end user of that telephone number physically located. This information is used to determine where the a toll call physically originates and terminates.

553535

~~(f) Remote Call Forwarding.~~

BellSouth believes that all current exemptions set forth in its General Subscriber Services Tariff, Section A3.6.2, should be set forth in the Rule. Due to an inherent

BellSouth believes that this revision more accurately describes the actual information (i.e., telephone numbers) contained in the TAR Database and the manner in which the Database is used.

III. Rule 1220-4-12-.02(1) Scope and Purpose of Rule

BellSouth proposes that this Section be modified to read as follows:

It is established that there is a public interest need that any telephone call made between two (2) points in the same county in Tennessee shall be classified as toll-free and shall not be billed to any customer. ~~all landline calls originating and terminating physically within the same Tennessee County to not be assessed toll charges.~~ This public interest need mandates that all landline Telecommunications Service Providers including but not limited to ILECs, CLECs, IXC's, Resellers and Telephone Cooperatives not bill for such calls when the call is transported over landline facilities.

BellSouth believes that this suggested revision, which tracks language directly from Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114, better ensures that the scope and purpose of the Rule is consistent with the statute.

IV. Rules 1220-4-12-.02(2) Scope and Purpose of Rule

BellSouth proposes that this subsection be revised to read as follows:

This Chapter is not applicable to the following: ~~county-wide calls from wireless telephone service providers or from public payphones.~~

- (a) Payphone Line Service.
- (b) Outward Wide Area Telecommunications Service (WATS) and 800 Service
- (c) Originating Wireless Service
- (d) Quoted charges (Operator-Assisted Calls)
- (e) Foreign Exchange Service
- (f) Remote Call Forwarding.

BellSouth believes that all current exemptions set forth in its General Subscriber Services Tariff, Section A3.6.2, should be set forth in the Rule. Due to an inherent

inability to identify the physical location of the originating and terminating numbers associated with these services, these exemptions have been in place since the initial implementation.

V. Rule 1220-4-12-.03(1) Methodological Requirements

BellSouth proposes that this subsection be revised to read as follows:

For the purpose of complying with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114, Telecommunications Service Providers offering providing local service in Tennessee utilizing their own telephone number assignments are required to participate in the Tax Area Rate (TAR) database maintained by the Authority, or its designee. , for the purpose of determining whether a customer should be charged a toll charge for telephone calls. Prior to billing a customer toll charges in Tennessee all Telecommunications Service Providers shall use current information from query the TAR database to ensure that the calling customer is not billed toll charges for any telephone call that originates and terminates within the same county. Telecommunications Service Providers complying with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114 by alternative means may seek a waiver from the Authority from participating in the TAR database or from using the TAR database as its method of complying with the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114.

Again, this language ties the proposed rule more closely to the governing statute, Tenn. Code Ann. §65-21-114, and also more accurately reflects how the TAR Database actually works. (For example, there are no real-time "queries" to this database. Rather, by using information extracted from the database in the billing process, BellSouth and other carriers can identify toll calls originated and terminated in the same county and avoid charging their customers for these calls.)

As the Authority is aware, all facility-based local service providers receive telephone number assignments from the North American Number Plan

Administrator. Therefore, all such facilities-based local service providers must participate in the TAR Database by placing information about their working telephone numbers in that database. Each such provider must be required to include the correct TAR code for the county in which its end user of that telephone number is physically located so other service providers can use this information to properly bill their own customers as required by the statute.

Other service providers, such as IXC's, have no such number assignments from NANPA and do not assign telephone numbers to their end users. These service providers will therefore have no data to place in the database. However they may still need to participate by extracting information from the database for use in their billing process to properly bill their own customers, again as required by the statute. In the event that such a service provider uses some other method to comply with T.C.A. § 65-21-114 without using information extracted from the TAR Database, that provider can seek a waiver from the Authority to allow it to use such other method.

VI. Rule 1220-4-12-.04(1)(a) Database Administration

BellSouth proposes that this subsection be modified to allow the administrator to give the Authority six months' notice of its intent to cease providing the service. The proposed rule would require one year's notice of such intent. As stated in its *Comments* filed in Docket No. 03-00502, *Workshop to Gather Information from the Telecommunications Industry Related to Preventing Violations of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114*, BellSouth is willing, for the time being, to continue to administer the process in the manner it currently does,

without charge to other members of the industry. Because BellSouth does incur administrative costs, and there is no mechanism set forth in the Rule to provide for payment for such costs, BellSouth proposes that the notice provision be reduced to six months. BellSouth believes that six months is sufficient time for the Authority to designate another administrator.

VII. Rule 1220-4-12-.04(2) Database Administration

BellSouth proposes that this subsection be revised to read as follows:

Information required by the database administrator from Telecommunications Service Providers shall be limited to data necessary to determine the county in which the end users of telephone numbers from that Service Provider are physically located. ~~call originates and terminates.~~

BellSouth believes that this revision makes this subsection (2) consistent with the proposed definition of "TAR", set forth in Rule 1220-4-12-.01(11). See also Comment IX, below.

VIII. Rule 1220-4-12-.04(4) Database Administration

BellSouth proposes that subsection (4) be revised to read as follows:

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of these rules the database administrator shall ~~publish and distribute~~ make available to all Telecommunication Service Providers operational guidelines for the administration of the database. Telecommunications Service Providers shall have thirty (30) sixty (60) days from the effective date of these rules ~~publication of the operational guidelines~~ to comply with the guidelines.

BellSouth believes that, if it is designated as administrator, there is no need to incur the costs of publishing and distributing such guidelines when they are already available on BellSouth's website and are already being used by the vast majority of

carriers in Tennessee. The administrator of the TAR Database may lack the resources to accommodate a large number of new participants within thirty days from the effective date of these rules. Accommodating new participants in the TAR Database requires coordination, training, testing, etc. While BellSouth, if designated as the Database administrator, will make every reasonable effort to accommodate all new participants, a large number of new participants may exceed BellSouth's ability to accommodate these new requests within 30 days.

IX. Rule 1220-4-12-.04(5) Database Administration

BellSouth proposes that this subsection be revised to read as follows:

It shall be the responsibility of Telecommunications Service Providers to submit accurate data to the database administrator, including the TAR Code for the county in which the end user of that telephone number is physically located. Data errors detected by the database administrator shall be returned to the submitting Telecommunications Service Provider for corrections and resubmission within ~~2 (two)~~ two (2) business days.

BellSouth believes that this revision clarifies that the requirement to submit accurate data includes the requirement of Telecommunications Service Providers to provide the TAR Code which reflects the end user's actual physical location, as opposed to a TAR Code simply representing the exchange to which telephone numbers are assigned.

X. Rule 1220-4-12-.05(1) Access Charges Prohibited

BellSouth proposes that this subsection be revised to read as follows:

Originating and terminating access charges shall not apply to county-wide calls. Any interexchange carrier that is billed access charges for these calls may obtain a credit for these charges from the billing carrier upon presenting documentation

sufficient to document the county-wide calls and the associated access charges. ~~No provider of telecommunications services shall bill access charges to or collect access charges from another provider for the origination or termination of an intra-county call.~~

BellSouth supports the current procedure of providing access charge credit to carriers upon request for intra-county calls not billed to their end users. BellSouth, like other carriers, has separate billing systems for access charges and end user charges. It would be very expensive for BellSouth to have to modify its billing and information technology systems to comply with the language proposed. Moreover, BellSouth's proposed language is consistent with its existing tariffs. *See Access Services Tariff Section E2.3.18.* Prohibiting the billing of access charges would cause carriers to incur costs not yet considered in the county-wide calling dockets. In BellSouth's case, the billing systems for access charges would require extensive modifications, requiring both time and considerable expense.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.


By: _____

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Substance of Proposed Rule
Chapter 1220-4-12
Telecommunications Rule Implementing Toll-Free County Wide Calling

Tennessee Regulatory Authority Rule 1220-4-12, shall read:

Table of Contents

1220-4-12-.01	Definitions
1220-4-12-.02	Scope and Purpose of Rule
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1220-4-12-.04	Database Administration
1220-4-12-.05	Access Charges Prohibited
1220-4-12-.06	Penalty Provision
1220-4-12-.01	Definitions

- (1) "Access charge" shall mean the charge for providing access to telephone exchange services or facilities for the purpose of the origination or termination of telephone toll services.
- (2) "Authority" refers to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority
- (3) "CLEC" shall mean competitive local exchange carrier or competing telecommunications service provider as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-101(e).
- (4) "County-wide or intra-county calls" shall mean any landline telephone call made between two (2) points in the same county in Tennessee.
- (5) "Database administrator" refers to the entity designated by the Authority to manage the Tax Area Rate database.
- (6) "ILEC" shall mean incumbent local exchange carrier as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-101(d).
- (7) "IXC" shall mean inter-exchange carrier as defined in Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-101(a)(9).
- (8) "Landline calls" shall mean calls transported over a telecommunications landline facility but does not include wireless.
- (9) "Landline facility" shall mean a conventional telephone facility including twisted-pair lines, carrier facilities and microwave radio facilities for supporting a conventional telephone channel not including satellite or mobile telephone lines using radio transmissions.

- (10) "Reseller" shall mean any ~~telecommunications~~ Service Provider providing telecommunications service to an end user by resale of all or part of the facilities of another carrier.
- (11) "TAR" shall mean the statewide Tax Area Rate database that identifies a local service provider's telephone number and the county in which the end user of that telephone number physically located. This information is used to determine where the toll call physically originates and terminates.
- (12) "Telephone Cooperative" shall mean any telephone company operating in Tennessee under the authority of Tenn. Code Ann. Chapter 29.
- (13) "Telecommunications Service Provider" means any incumbent local exchange telephone company or certificated individual or entity, or individual or entity operating pursuant to the approval by the commission of a franchise within § 65-4-207(b), authorized by law to provide, and offering or providing for hire, any telecommunications service, telephone service, telegraph service, paging service, or communications service similar to such services unless otherwise exempted from this definition by state or federal law (Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-101(c)).
- (14) "Wireless provider" shall mean a provider of telecommunications services such as cellular telephone, paging or personal communications for which all or part of the communications pathway between users includes transmission through radio links.

1220-4-12-.02 Scope and Purpose of Rule

- (1) It is established that there is a public interest need that any telephone call made between two (2) points in the same county in Tennessee shall be classified as toll-free and shall not be billed to any customer. all landline calls originating and terminating physically within the same Tennessee County to not be assessed toll charges—This public interest need mandates that all landline ~~telecommunications~~ Service Providers including but not limited to ILECs, CLECs, IXC's, Resellers and Telephone Cooperatives not bill for such calls when the call is transported over landline facilities.
- (2) This Chapter is not applicable to the following: county-wide calls from wireless telephone service providers or from public payphones.
 - (a) Payphone Line Service.
 - (b) Outward Wide Area Telecommunications Service (WATS) and 800 Service
 - (c) Originating Wireless Service

(d) Quoted charges (Operator-Assisted Calls)

(e) Foreign Exchange Service

(f) Remote Call Forwarding.

- (3) Any tTelecommunications sService pProvider may file a petition with the Authority for relief if it believes that complying with this Chapter will prevent it from achieving a fair rate of return.

1220-4-12-.03 Methodological Requirements

- (1) For the purpose of complying with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114, tTelecommunications sService pProviders offering providing local service in Tennessee utilizing their own telephone number assignments are required to participate in the Tax Area Rate (TAR) database maintained by the Authority, or its designee, for the purpose of determining whether a customer should be charged a toll charge for telephone calls. Prior to billing a customer toll charges in Tennessee all tTelecommunications sService pProviders shall use current information from query the TAR database to ensure that the calling customer is not billed toll charges for any telephone call that originates and terminates within the same county. Telecommunications Service Providers complying with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114 by alternative means may seek a waiver from the Authority from participating in the TAR database or from using the TAR database as its method of complying with the requirements of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114.

1220-4-12-.04 Database Administration

- (1) The Authority shall ensure that the administration of the TAR database is provided in a fair, efficient and economical manner and that each tTelecommunications sService pProvider at the time of its application for authority to operate in Tennessee is made aware of its responsibility to participate in the database.
- (a) The Authority shall designate the administrator of the TAR database for a term not to exceed ten (10) years (or 5 years?). The administrator is required to give the Authority a one (1) year's six (6) months' notice of its intent to cease providing the service.
- (2) Information required by the database administrator from tTelecommunications sService pProviders shall be limited to data necessary to determine the county in which the end users of telephone numbers from that Service Provider are physically located. call originates and terminates.

- (3) The database administrator and all ~~t~~Telecommunications ~~s~~Service ~~p~~Providers with access to the database have a duty to protect the confidentiality of the customer information contained in the database and shall use the information only for the purposes of implementing these rules.
- (4) Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of these rules the database administrator shall ~~publish and distribute~~ make available to all Telecommunication Service Providers operational guidelines for the administration of the database. Telecommunications ~~s~~Service ~~p~~Providers shall have ~~thirty (30) sixty (60) days~~ from the effective date of these rules ~~publication of the operational guidelines~~ to comply with the guidelines.
 - (a) The database administrator shall notify the Authority and ~~t~~Telecommunications ~~s~~Service ~~p~~Providers participating in the TAR database at least thirty (30) days in advance of the effective date of any changes to the guidelines.
- (5) It shall be the responsibility of ~~t~~Telecommunications ~~s~~Service ~~p~~Providers to submit accurate data to the database administrator, including the TAR Code for the county in which the end user of that telephone number is physically located. Data errors detected by the database administrator shall be returned to the submitting ~~t~~Telecommunications ~~s~~Service ~~p~~Provider for corrections and resubmission within ~~2-(two)two (2)~~ business days.
- (6) Each ~~t~~Telecommunications ~~s~~Service ~~p~~Provider shall submit its updated information to the TAR database administrator no less than twice a month as specified by the guidelines to ensure accuracy of the data.
- (7) Each ~~t~~Telecommunications ~~s~~Service ~~p~~Provider shall receive from the database administrator a bi-monthly update as specified by the guidelines and update its systems with all new additions and deletions.
- (8) The database administrator shall provide to the Authority reports on the operations of the database, as requested
- (9) Any ~~t~~Telecommunications ~~s~~Service ~~p~~Provider may file a complaint with the Authority regarding any aspect of the operation of the TAR database.

1220-4-12- 05 Access Charges Prohibited

- (1) Originating and terminating access charges shall not apply to county-wide calls. Any interexchange carrier that is billed access charges for these calls may obtain a credit for these charges from the billing carrier upon presenting documentation sufficient to document the county-wide calls and the associated access charges. ~~No provider of telecommunications services shall bill access charges to or collect access charges from another provider for the origination or termination of an~~

~~intra-county call~~

1220-4-12- 06 Penalty Provision

- (1) Violators of this Chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty, payable to the Authority, pursuant to Tenn Code Ann § 65-4-120.
- (2) Violations shall be calculated in a liberal manner in order to protect the public interest and deter similar violations.

Authority T C A §§ 65-2-102, 65-4-104, 65-4-201



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November 17, 2003

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Ron Jones, Hearing Officer
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Workshop to Gather Information from the Telecommunications Industry
Related to Preventing Violations of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114*
Docket No. 03-00502

Dear Director Jones:

Enclosed are the original and fourteen copies of BellSouth's *Comments* related to preventing violation of T.C.A. § 65-21-114. BellSouth appreciates the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Guy M. Hicks

GMH:ch

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *Workshop to Gather Information from the Telecommunications Industry
Related to Preventing Violations of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114*

Docket No. 03-00502

**COMMENTS OF BELL SOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS RELATED
TO PREVENTING VIOLATIONS OF T.C.A. § 65-21-114**

Following the November 7, 2003 Workshop to Gather Information from the Telecommunications Industry Related to Preventing Violations of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114 (the "Workshop"), Director Ron Jones provided the participants the opportunity to file written comments. Following are BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s ("BellSouth") comments.

I. Summary of BellSouth Comments

BellSouth complies with Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-21-114(a) as described in its approved General Subscriber Services Tariff Section A3.6.2.1, County-Wide Calling (copy attached). BellSouth submits that the most practical and efficient manner to ensure full industry compliance with § 65-21-114(a) is for all local service providers to provide the necessary information for their customers to the Tax Area Record ("TAR") Code Master File ("Master File").

The industry's ability to comply fully with T.C.A. § 65-21-114(a) requires that county-wide calls that are dialed on a "1+" basis can be properly identified, based on information for both the originating and terminating parties in the Master File. When the terminating party is served by another service provider (independent company, CLEC,

co-operative, etc.), that service provider must provide the necessary information for its customers. Without this information, other carriers have no basis on which to properly identify and bill these calls. While BellSouth does not oppose industry members using methods other than the TAR Code solution, such as mileage bands, unless those companies also participate in the TAR Code process, there will be inevitable gaps in the process, with some customers continuing to be billed for intracounty calls. During the Workshop, helpful comments were provided as to how this participation can be most easily and efficiently accomplished.

As discussed during the Workshop, BellSouth is willing to allow the Authority or another entity to administer the Master File process. Alternatively, BellSouth is willing, for the time being, to continue to administer the process in the manner it currently does, without charge to the other members of the industry. Regardless of what proposal is adopted, however, BellSouth opposes any abandonment of the TAR Code process in favor of mileage bands or other alternatives.

II. Background and the Tax Area Record Code Master File Solution

In most cases, county-wide calls are dialed on a 7-digit local basis. In these instances, these calls are no different than any other local call. In those situations where a county-wide call is dialed as a toll call (i.e., 1 + 10 digits), those calls will be completed as toll calls and billed as such, absent intervention in the billing process. That intervention is exactly what the TAR Code solution does; by using tax area records, it identifies calls originated and terminated in one county and bills them as local. BellSouth uses its TAR Code Master File as an edit function during

the billing process to ensure that customers are not billed for these county-wide calls.¹

When county-wide calling was first ordered by the Tennessee Public Service Commission in the early 1990s, BellSouth and the other telephone companies looked for alternatives to comply with such order. The result was the TAR Code Master File solution. It was the cheapest and most efficient method for handling county-wide calling. BellSouth worked with the Independent Telephone Companies and Cooperative Telephone Companies to ensure that inter-company "1 +" county-wide calls were not billed to the originating caller, and these other companies also use the Master File to ensure proper billing for their customers. Later, the Master File was offered to Interexchange Carriers (IXC) for their use in billing interLATA intra-county calls. After passage of the Federal Telecom Act, BellSouth offered the use of its Master File to Competitive Local Exchange Carriers ("CLECs"). Most CLECs in Tennessee also use this process in order to properly bill county-wide calls. For the TAR Code Master File solution to work, other telephone companies must provide the taxing authority code for their customers into the Master File so that any company can access the database and properly identify county-wide calls during the billing process. This arrangement works well and continues to be the process used by BellSouth and most other companies to properly bill these calls.

In order to keep the Master File current, BellSouth requests that participating companies provide updates to their Master File entries by the 10th and 24th of each month. Once these updates are combined into the Master File, BellSouth will send

¹ In the event that a customer disputes a bill for a county-wide call, BellSouth will investigate and adjust the customer's bill once it is confirmed that call was a county-wide call.

a copy of the Master File to each company. Therefore, each participating company receives two copies of the Master File each month. At the present time, BellSouth maintains the Master File at no charge and does not charge any carrier either to input data into this database or for copies of the database for use in a company's billing process.

BellSouth issued Carrier Notification SN1083660 to all facility-based CLECs and Independent Companies on April 4, 2003 to facilitate the provision of information necessary to ensure toll-free county wide calling in Tennessee. This Carrier Notification included a link to the County-Wide Calling CLEC Pre-Ordering and Ordering Guidelines. Copies of both documents are attached.

III. BellSouth Responses to Specific Questions Raised at the Workshop

Following are responses from BellSouth to specific questions that were raised in comments filed prior to and during the Workshop.

- A. As to prepaid service providers, is an intra-county call that terminates outside a local calling area blocked, i.e., is it treated as long distance?**

BellSouth treats all calls outside of the local calling area, including county-wide calls, as long distance and routes them to the long distance carrier selected by the customer.

- B. Do Local Exchange Companies forward intra-county calls that terminate outside of a local calling area to long distance service providers? To resellers of local service, to resellers of long distance service?**

BellSouth routes all calls that terminate outside of the local calling area to the long distance carrier selected by the customer whether that provider is a facility-based carrier or a reseller. Such a call would not be routed to a reseller of local service.

C. Who should have the burden of designating intra-county calls as local?

Any "burden" would appear to ultimately apply to the party with billing responsibility. However, sufficient information must be available to properly classify and bill an intra-county call.

D. Do wholesale providers notify their wholesale customer that they do not filter calls before forwarding call records to the wholesale customer?

BellSouth does not bill resellers of its local service for county-wide calls. With regard to county-wide calling, bills to resellers of BellSouth local service are treated in a similar way to bills to retail customers, in that those county-wide calls identified using the Master File are not included on bills to the reseller.

E. Can the TAR Code Database fully meet the needs of carriers without participation by all carriers?

No; All local service providers who serve customers in areas where county-wide calls may be dialed on a "1+" basis must provide input into the Master File. No input is needed from resellers of BellSouth's local service and/or long distance resellers.

F. The need for uniform and consistent practices for updating the TAR Code Database and disseminating information to subscribers.

BellSouth provides the county-wide calling CLEC Pre-Ordering and Ordering Guidelines on its publicly available web site, and this document contains the "uniform and consistent practices" for updating the Master File and disseminating information to subscribers of that Master File. During the Workshop, no party raised this item as an issue.

G. Stale data as a result of new NPA/NXXs, procedures for submitting and disseminating data, and carriers' inability to extract data from previous files.

According to the Guidelines referenced above, BellSouth accepts bi-monthly updates from participating companies. With regard to the perceived inability to extract data from previous files, each carrier is free to archive and use previous files downloaded from the Master File as they wish. Therefore, it is difficult to understand what "inabilities" exist and how that affects a carrier's ability to provide county-wide calling to its customers. During the Workshop, no party raised this item as an issue.

H. Initial development costs resulting from file format changes and purchase of proprietary software.

BellSouth does not understand the reference to "proprietary software". Participation in the Master File does not, from BellSouth's perspective, require the purchase of any "proprietary software". Initial development costs to access and use Master File information is common to all parties, more so to BellSouth who incurs on-going expense to maintain the Master File. During the Workshop, no party raised this item as an issue. Furthermore, several participants commented that they could not recall any format changes made by BellSouth.

I. Difficulties interfacing subscriber internal systems with the TRA Code Database.

Again, any solution would require a company to incur some cost. Of course, companies currently participating in the Master File have already incurred this cost. Each service provider will incur some cost to implement county-wide calling, regardless of the method chosen to provide the service. During the Workshop, no party no party raised this item as an issue.

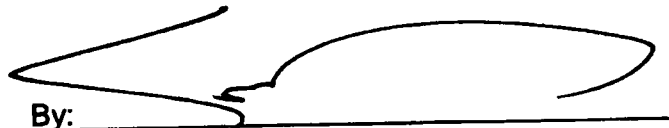
IV. Conclusion

The industry in Tennessee has successfully used the TAR Code Master File solution for approximately ten years to provide toll free county-wide calling. No party has alleged that the Master File solution does not work. The vast majority of local service providers in Tennessee employ the TAR Code solution. The fifty or so companies participating in the TAR Code solution should not have to incur additional expense to adopt another method of providing county-wide calling simply because a few service providers have elected not to participate in the Master File. While local service providers should be free to choose their own method of providing county-wide calling, the ability of local service providers in general to provide toll-free county-wide calling is adversely affected by the refusal of a few service providers to participate in the TAR Code Master File.

No better alternative method of providing toll-free county-wide calling has been presented. Mileage bands are inexact and generally require the provider to forego toll revenue. Nothing was presented during the Workshop to demonstrate how the "GEO codes" used by some providers would address these issues. Uniform use of the TAR Code Master File solution would resolve the problems and complaints arising from county-wide calling.

Respectfully submitted,

BELLSOUTH TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Guy M. Hicks", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop.

By:

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Exhibits not included but previously filed on November 17, 2003